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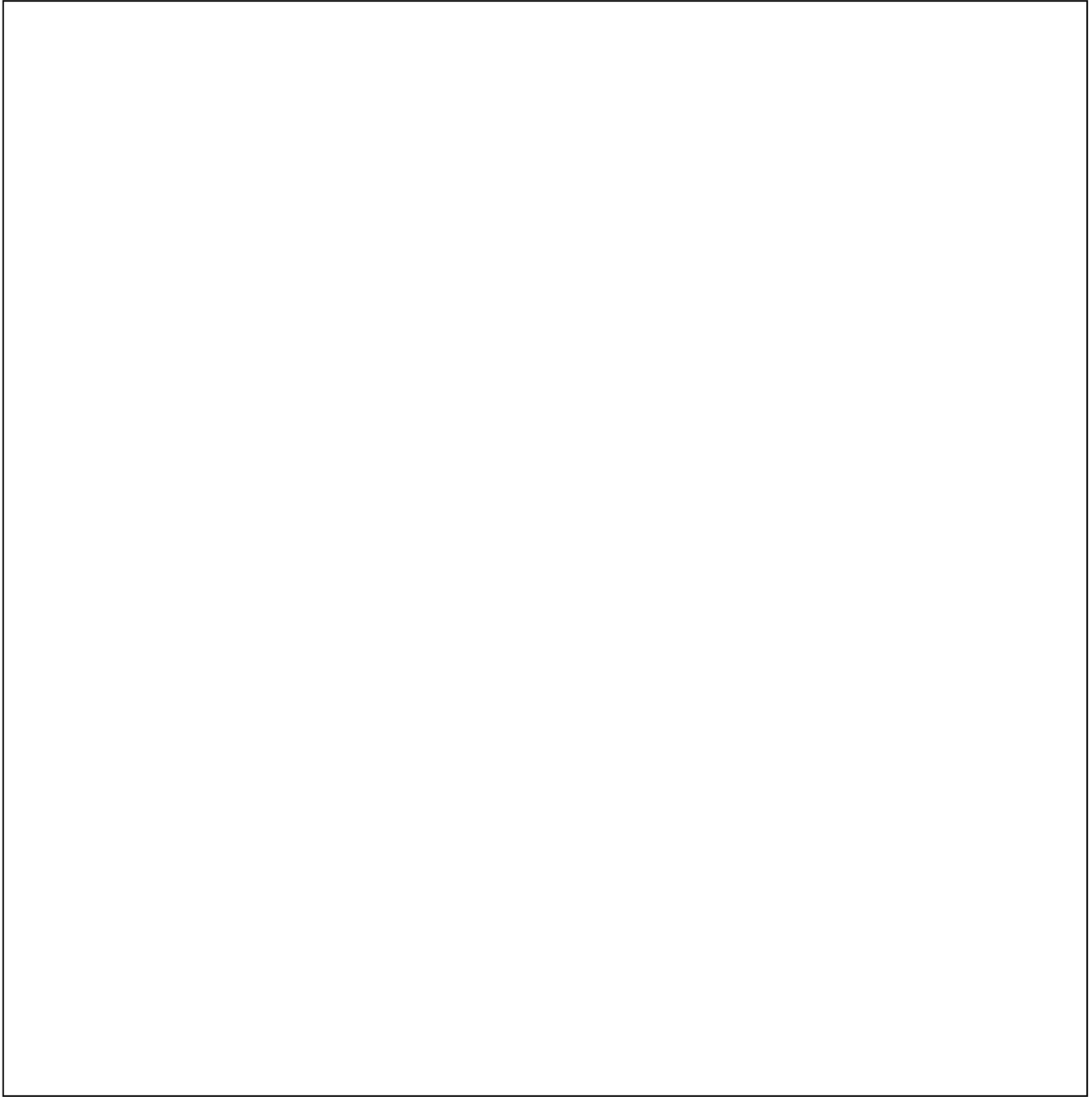
CYPRUS DISPUTE AGAIN MOVING INTO DIPLOMATIC ARENA

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CYPRUS DISPUTE AGAIN MOVING INTO DIPLOMATIC ARENA

Greek-Turkish tensions over Cyprus were relaxed markedly prior to the abortive Greek royal coup attempt on 13 December, and the island has since remained generally quiet as the UN now considers a further extension of its mandate. As of mid-week, Greek troops were leaving the island at a faster rate than earlier anticipated, and all sides were trying to ensure that there would be no provocative incidents to hamper the operation.

In Turkey, the military alert over Cyprus appeared to be relaxing. The Turkish Army, however, apparently intends to maintain about one third of the forces it has deployed along the southern coast and near the Greek-Turkish border until a satisfactory diplomatic settlement has been reached. The Turks are not planning any immediate removal of their unauthorized troops from Cyprus.

The unstable political situation in Greece may lead to increased Turkish vigilance along its western border and may slow troop withdrawal from the area, but it probably will not alter appreciably Ankara's attitude toward Cyprus. The Turks presumably regard the Greek problem as strictly internal; they may even believe that it will accel-

erate the withdrawal of Greek forces from the island.

With Athens diverted by a new domestic crisis, Ankara and Nicosia may try--within the context of an independent Cyprus--some moves toward a mutually acceptable resolution of their differences. A high-level Turkish Cypriot leader recently declared for the first time that the Turkish Cypriot community is prepared to negotiate a revision of the 1960 Cyprus constitution.

The UN Security Council meets this week to consider a further extension of its peacekeeping mission on Cyprus. While there may be some opposition within the Council, the mandate probably will be renewed, although probably for less than the usual six months. There is general agreement among the interested parties that the mandate should be extended, but the debate could nonetheless become heated. President Makarios, who personally favors a simple extension of the mandate, says he is worried that the USSR might try to exploit the debate. He characterized the Soviet role during the recent crisis as "ambiguous."

On Cyprus, Makarios' "normalization" program is having

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trouble getting started. He fears that armed extremist groups of both the left and right may emerge following the withdrawal of the mainland Greek troops. The Greek Cypriots have offered to relax controls on "strategic" materials and abandon a number of armed positions if the Turkish Cypriots withdraw from certain key positions. The initial

Turkish and Turkish Cypriot reaction has been negative, but there may be some maneuverability on this issue. The Turks also have been critical of the ineffectiveness of the UN force in controlling the fighting during the recent crisis and have little confidence that it would intervene to protect them in the future.

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